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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Rev. Derrius  
4 Colvin Sr. and the congregation of the First Progressive Church  
5 of Christ in Chicago on the occasion of the church's 60th  
6 anniversary; and

7           WHEREAS, The rich history of the First Progressive Church  
8 of Christ began in February of 1954, when the church's pastor  
9 and officers purchased the property at 7257-59 South Wabash and  
10 60 East 73rd Street in Chicago; the church's early years moved  
11 successfully and progressively and more auxiliaries and  
12 departments were added to meet the demands of the growing  
13 congregation including the Men's Workshop, Junior Choir,  
14 Children's Bible Hour Purity Class, and Cub and Boy Scouts; and

15           WHEREAS, By 1959, the membership had outgrown its present  
16 facility and another building program was begun; a \$50,000  
17 addition was put on to the church in this successful endeavor;  
18 the congregation was able to burn the church's mortgage in  
19 1967; and

20           WHEREAS, After the death of Bishop J.M. Heywood, the First  
21 Progressive Church of Christ continued its work under the  
22 leadership of Rev. Charles Snipes, who led the church until

1 September of 1973; during this time, 2 deacons were ordained,  
2 Reynold Dillon and Gilbert Matthews; in October of 1979, Rev.  
3 Bennett Wolfe was called to pastor the church; during Rev.  
4 Wolfe's tenure, the Bus Ministry was instituted; in April of  
5 1977, Rev. Wolfe left First Progressive and leadership  
6 responsibilities were taken on by Deacons Isaac May and Reynold  
7 Dillon until the church elected Deacon W.I. Irving as Church  
8 Chairman; during this time, Rev. John F. Sanders was acting  
9 host minister; and

10 WHEREAS, In April of 1976, Rev. Fred L. Dade became the  
11 pastor of the First Progressive Church of Christ; under his  
12 leadership of preaching and teaching the Word of God, more  
13 people were added to the church; during Pastor Dade's ministry,  
14 Rev. John F. Sanders was ordained as a Minister, while Ralph  
15 Smith, Columbus Bowens, and Hurdylyn Woods were ordained as  
16 deacons, and the J.M. Haywood Youth Workers, Angelic Choir, and  
17 Inspirational Choir were organized; in 1990, Eddie Dade was  
18 ordained as a minister and Burnett E. Smith was ordained as a  
19 deacon; and

20 WHEREAS, After Pastor Dade's passing in July of 2002, Rev.  
21 Derrius Colvin Sr. became the pastor of the First Progressive  
22 Church of Christ in April of 2003; under his leadership, the  
23 church has experienced continually great progress spiritually,  
24 numerically, and financially; under his leadership, the

1 Evangelism Ministry was formed; and

2 WHEREAS, Rev. Derrius Colvin Sr. and the congregation of  
3 the First Progressive Church of Christ serve as models of hard  
4 work, integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of  
5 Illinois; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we congratulate Rev. Derrius Colvin Sr. and the congregation of  
9 the First Progressive Church of Christ on the occasion of the  
10 church's 60th anniversary and wish them continued success and  
11 happiness in the future; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the congregation of the First Progressive Church  
14 of Christ as a symbol of our esteem and respect.